

ALEXANDRIA COMMISSION ON HIV/AIDS
Minutes
September 17, 2018
6:30 p.m.
Location: Alexandria Health Department

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leanne Desmond, Tavares Floyd, Jennifer Gillyard, Bruce Hightower, Dana Hines, Alison Lesht, Christopher O'Connell, Eugene Stammeyer, Shelbert Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gerald Padmore (E), Charles Sumpter (E), Gayle Terry (U), Andrew Torre (E)

STAFF: Nechelle Terrell

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Alexandria Commission on HIV/AIDS was called to order by Vice Chair, Jennifer Gillyard, at 6:35 p.m.

II. Introductions and Announcements

Commissioners gave introductions sharing their name and agency representation or if they were a citizen representative.

Commissioner Christopher O'Connell informed the commission that he received a promotion and is now the PEPFAR Branch Chief at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration.

III. Consideration of Minutes from May and July Meetings

Nechelle shared that due to the term expirations of two (2) commissioners, the status of the minutes from the July meeting might change, as there may have been a quorum met. The commission agreed to vote on the minutes and will make the correction, if needed, at the next meeting.

Commissioner Tavares Floyd stated that the minutes from the May meeting were reviewed at the July meeting, however, not approved due to lack of quorum. Tavares moved and Commissioner Bruce Hightower seconded, to accept the minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce moved to accept the minutes of the July meeting as written. Commissioner Shelbert Williams seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Note: After the meeting, Nechelle reviewed the roster and notes from the May meeting. With the removal of the two members with expired terms, a quorum was still not met for the July meeting. Therefore, the Minutes from July will be referred to as "Notes". In addition, minutes from the May meeting were never distributed or reviewed and will need to be revisited at the next meeting in October.

IV. Old Business and Updates

Upcoming Awareness Days

Upcoming HIV/AIDS Awareness days and events were reviewed. Commissioners were reminded of the HIV & Aging Awareness presentation co-sponsored with Alexandria Health Department and Gilead Pharmaceuticals on Wednesday, September 26. Other events included Karaoke Night: R & B Voices hosted by the Getting to Zero Campaign at Freddie's Beach Bar; NOVA Pride Festival on September 29, Walk to End HIV on October 27; AHD Community Health Assessment Community Meeting on November 3. Nechelle informed the commission that the NVCCPHA "Hoops in Virginia" Basketball Tournament and Summit is tentatively set for November 17. She will confirm with the council at their next meeting.

Nechelle informed the commission that she was contacted by the Alfred Street Baptist Church HIV Ministry Chair about a possibly collaboration for World AIDS Day. There has also been discussion of a movie viewing with AHD, GMHC and other CBOs in Northern Virginia for the film "Thicker Than Blood". Funding opportunities for the movie are being researched.

Commission Roster Updates

Nechelle informed the commission that terms for Travis and Michelle Foster expired in December and they did not reapply. Manya Magnus' term expired in September and she did not chose to reapply. All three filled Citizen seats.

V. New Business

ACOH Potential Fund Raising Ideas

Potential fundraising ideas were discussed by commissioners, to fund future events and activities for awareness days and other events sponsored or co-sponsored by the commission. Commissioner Bruce Hightower recommended partnering with the Brewery where they will donated a percentage of their proceeds to the sponsoring agency. Other suggestions included an open house and reception targeting newly elected officials to be held after the elections. Bruce also shared that the Little Theater of Alexandria also hosts charity nights.

The commission agreed to hosting an event at The Port City Brewery for World AIDS Day. The suggested times for the event is 3pm to 11pm on Saturday, December 1. During those times, a percent of sales for the evening would be donated to the commission. Commissioner Alison Lesht agreed to contact PCB.

Officer Elections

Jennifer announced that Officer Elections will be held at the next meeting. Elections will be held for Chair, Vice Chair, Communications Officer and Financial Committee Chair. Nominations are to be sent to Commissioner Charles Sumpter prior to the next meeting.

VI. Alexandria Office of Housing Presentation

Tamara Jovovic, Housing Planner from the Office on Housing, presented on the various housing programs offered in the city of Alexandria. Programs offered by the

city are: Renters Programs which includes Landlord Tenant Mediation, Housing Counseling, Relocation Assistance and RAMP (Rental Accessibility Modification Programs); Homebuyer Programs offering 10-25 committed affordable units (ADU) across the city, homeownership assistance and education & training; Homeowner Programs offering Home Rehabilitation Loans, counseling & training and trainings on condominium and HOA.

Other programs include ARHA (Alexandria Redevelopment & Housing Authority) which owns and operates public housing, Section 8/Housing Choice Voucher Program. ARHA is led by a board that is appointed by Alexandria City Council.

Tamara further discussed the city's Housing Master Plan that includes a goal of 2000 new ADU by 2025. Handouts from the presentation can be emailed after the meeting.

VII. Committee Updates

Financial Committee – A new Financial Committee Chair will be elected at the October meeting.

Data & Trend Analysis Committee – Meetings for the committee will resume in October at 6:00 p.m.

Communications Officer – Jennifer reminded commissioner to send her events, photos and other information for posting on the Facebook page.

VIII. Agency/Liaison Updates

Community Service Board

Eugene reported 2 HIV test were conducted at the Substance Abuse Programs, both results were negative.

Arlington Gay & Lesbian Alliance (AGLA)

Bruce informed the commissioner that AGLA will host an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, September 30, 3pm to 5pm. The event is free for AGLA members. Non-AGLA members are welcomed and asked to make a donation.

AGLA has applied for the Cherry Pride Grant to continue supporting HIV programs. [The Cherry Fund actively raises funds to support the HIV/AIDS service and prevention community via charity dance events]

Bruce is encouraging members of the commission and AGLA to volunteer for the "Getting to Zero" clinics and Rainbow Tuesday Clinics. Nechelle will check on policy and procedures regarding volunteering for AHD.

AGLA is looking for sponsorships for their annual holiday party. All proceeds from the holiday party go to the AGLA Scholarship.

Alexandria Health Department

Nechelle announced that the Community Health Assessment survey is being distributed at various locations in the city. "Pop-Ups" at local recreation centers,

places of worship, retail stores and community events will be staffed by AHD employees and volunteers, who will distribute and collect the surveys on site.

The next Community Health Assessment Community Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 3 at George Washington Middle School.

The Whitan Walker Clinic "Walk to End AIDS" will be held on Saturday, October 27th.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.